

THE WILMINGTON JOURNAL.

CONFEDERATE STATES OF AMERICA.

WILMINGTON, N. C., SATURDAY, JANUARY 25, 1862.

HAPPILY to-morrow will be Sunday. We are glad of that much respite, for really we feel like indulging in speculation, and we have little or no news that can be relied upon. Our disaster in Kentucky seems to be confirmed, but still the accounts are confused, but not quite as much confused as those about the Burnside fleet. We know that all the dispatches we published were in accordance with official advices received at headquarters. No doubt they were substantially correct, and believed to be wholly so. No doubt forty to fifty vessels came to Hatteras, and no doubt also the fleet there was greatly swelled by a vast number of others, possibly coming there on purpose or more probably making a harbor. No doubt many got inside the Sound. But what they are doing now or where they are we cannot say, and feel like answering all anxious enquirers as the Northern Progress does the Raleigh Standard:—We can't tell where the Burnside expedition is, for we don't know,—we hope though, at the devil."

The Norfolk Day Book says that a gentleman who reached that place on Thursday, direct from the North Carolina Coast, addresses it a communication, in which he states that the report of General Gatlin and others as to a large Federal fleet being in Pamlico Sound, with the purpose of making an attack on Roanoke Island, Newbern and other places, is entirely unfounded.—"Reliable" information from Roanoke Island and Hyde County, is said to confirm this view.

The correspondent concludes his communication by saying:—

"I think, therefore, it may be confidently asserted, that neither the Burnside expedition, nor any other fleet is to be found in the waters of Eastern Carolina with a hostile purpose toward Roanoke or Newbern."

What to make of this we do not know. We think the Day Book receives it with many grains of salt.—The New York Herald says that forty-one vessels of the Burnside expedition had arrived safely at Pamlico Sound on Monday of last week, and adds, "It is thought that the tempestuous weather may have induced them to seek a temporary harbor at that place." This the Day Book, speaking as though upon information, pronounces a guess, so far as it appears designed to create the impression that the expedition was not intended for operations in the North Carolina Sounds. It thinks that the expedition is a failure, a dead failure—too much used up for anything. God send that this be true, and it looks as though it might be.

Things are a little dark, but the clouds lift at times and we see the brightness beyond.

The election of Hon. R. M. T. Hunter to the Confederate Senate, from the State of Virginia, at the first ballot, shows the feebleness of the bitter warfare waged against that gentleman by the reckless and desperate party or clique of which the Richmond Examiner appears to be the mouth-piece.

If the Lincoln forces advancing into Tennessee, in the direction of Paris, don't find themselves in a bad fix, we don't know. We rather think they will. They will wish themselves safe again out of Dixie far enough. General Johnson understands how he has them.

The Lincoln blockaders carry pretty heavy guns.—Some of our projectiles thrown ashore along this section of our coast have been found to measure eleven inches. Another thing.—Come what may, or cost what it may, our gunners must have actual practice to be able to cope with the Yankee naval gunners. They must be drilled in actual shooting if half their powder is spent in doing it. The firing from the enemy's gunboats is too good to be met or repelled by random firing.

People will sometimes talk about things they hardly know. The Fayetteville Observer talks about the truth. It explains itself by speaking of variety.

The authorities and the people had better look out for Bridge Burners. It is quite likely there are some about.

FOUND DROWNED.—Yesterday afternoon, Coroner Jones held an inquest over the dead body of an unknown man, found floating in the river nearly opposite Mount Tirzah, that forenoon, by Mr. George Farman. He had evidently been drowned for some time. Eighteen dollars and twenty-five cents were found in a pocket-book on the body, and also the following on a strip of paper, which may possibly give some clue to his identity:

Received of J. L. Carter two dollars cash, and this shall be your receipt for the amount.

H. J. CROWELL.

Mr. Hix Crowl, Sir, please to send me two dollars by Wm. Kirke.

JOSEPH L. CARTER.

The verdict of the Coroner's Jury was "Found Drowned." There was no mark of any violence on the body, and the fact of the money not being taken suggests to negative the idea of violence.

Daily Journal, 23d inst.

Considerable prejudice exists against flint-lock muskets altered to percussion, and this prejudice is, no doubt, well-founded in most cases, inasmuch as many of the pieces so altered have been really dangerous and comparatively inefficient. This may be said of the great proportion of those altered by private contract.—In these the tube, having so slight a hold in the barrel, is apt to blow out and injure the firer more than the person fired at. In truth, where a hole is drilled in the barrel of a flint-lock musket the thickness is not sufficient to give a long enough thread to hold the tube firmly in its place.

We learn that this objection does not apply to the muskets altered at the Confederate Armory in Fayetteville, where, by a process of punching, the metal is crowded up around the hole made for the tube, so as to add materially to the length of the screw and render its hold in the barrel fully as firm as that of any original percussion gun. The old State arms thus altered are said to be equal to any muskets in use, and probably superior to any guns that could now be made, since it might be difficult, if not impossible, now to obtain as good materials as were used in the manufacture of guns made carefully during peace, and when unlimited opportunity of selection could be had.

Experiments have been made at the Armory, to test the value and efficiency of the guns so altered, especially with reference to the tubes, and they have been perfectly satisfactory. Even in cases of guns that did not pass inspection the firing of a hundred rounds failed to show any effect whatever on the firmness of the tube.

SOME MEMBERS of the North Carolina State Convention met at Raleigh on Monday last, pursuant to adjournment, but not in sufficient numbers to form a quorum. Adjourned over until Tuesday. The excitement about Hatteras and other points may have been the cause of detaining so many of the members.

It is not probable that much business will be done this week.

The Raleigh Standard of Wednesday says that Captain Wheeler's Company from Forsythe, has joined Col. Green's regiment, and left for Wilmington.

SHAD have been selling in Washington, N. C., this week, at \$1 a pair. That is more reasonable than they have been ruling here, the few there have been.

AMOUNT RECEIVED so far from all sources, for the relief of the Charleston sufferers \$294,164 78.

THE BURNIDE EXPEDITION.

Apparently nothing of an official character has reached Goldsboro' for some days past, and, consequently, we are without telegraphic or other communication from the northern coast of the State. We give the last brought to us by mail, although, certainly, it throws no light upon the subject, but rather obscures that which we thought we had. The Northern Progress, of yesterday, has the following:

From the Northern Progress, 23d inst.

THE FLEET—THE FASCINATION. The true position and ultimate object of the Burnside fleet is one of the greatest mysteries and most difficult problems that this nation has to solve. From what little insight we can get into the Northern papers, it would seem that even the Northern people are uncertain as to its purpose, and are as much or more concerned for its safety (it having encountered a heavy gale off Cape Henry, then we are about its destination. This is quite natural, inasmuch as upon its success depends their future salvation as a government to a very large extent.

Several reports have reached us recently to the effect that large quantities of gun-boats were in the Sound and that a simultaneous attack would be made on the five important points, this being one of the places, at the same time, the legitimate result of which has been a panic here. We, however, are not exactly prepared to believe that the fleet resembles more a cool and deliberate determination on the part of our male citizens to place their wives and children in a safer position, at least, than they are now, than a manly and patriotic determination to do the enemy to the very last extremity, should he venture to set foot upon land. There is a fixedness and determination on the countenance of every one that seems to say, "If he comes we will kill many of him as he can of us."

We have said but little heretofore about rumors that have reached us, not knowing whether they were true or not and not wishing to cause any unnecessary alarm. Up to this point we have not been able to decide whether there has been a Yankee gun-boat or the swash at Hatteras or not.

The latest news we have is from Captain Hyde, who arrived here yesterday from Mattamuskeet. Hyde county, through the Sound, and says he saw nothing in the Sound in the shape of a gun-boat. We shall probably hear more before going to press, as Col. G. B. Singletary sought and obtained permission from the Commanding General to go on a reconnoitering expedition down the river. He is expected to give the result of his trip.

P. S.—Col. Singletary had not arrived when we went to press, so we still leave it in doubt.

The "Norfolk Day Book" also throws doubts upon all the accounts yet received, but gives no information whatever.

From the Norfolk Day Book, 23d inst.

THE BURNIDE EXPEDITION.

We find a general disbelief in our community as to the truthfulness of the dispatches contained in our yesterday's issue about the appearance of the Burnside fleet at Hatteras. We learn that a gentleman arrived in the city on Tuesday night, via Elizabeth City, from Roanoke Island, who was left on Monday. He reports that the Burnside fleet had returned to the Sound, up to a later date than that of the dispatches, and that no such report as that contained was handed in. It was this, probably, inasmuch as the severity of the gale that blew from the north on the night of the 20th.

The Washington, N. C., Dispatch of Tuesday is only now at hand. O. course its news is anticipated.

A letter received here to-day by a mercantile firm from well-informed parties in Newbern, takes the same view as that expressed by the Progress. With this weather Pamlico Sound would be about as dangerous as the ocean, with a heavy sea and shallow water, the frail shells which compose the bulk of the "expedition," would thump their bottoms out against the bottom of the Sound. Such things have occurred more than once with the local craft navigating these waters. Lincoln's mosquito fleet would hardly be willing to run separately for harbors, knowing that they would thus run the risk of capture. Col. Singletary had not returned at the date of the letter (yesterday morning).—The writers think that the number of the fleet (125) is exaggerated. This is possible, as far as those connected with the expedition is concerned, but is quite likely that a sufficient number from the Port Royal fleet, or of passing blockaders may have put in to the inlet for harbor, to swell the number up to the mark assigned.—We shall see what we shall see.

P. S.—But see telegraph. It is evident that Lincoln gun-boats have got into the Sound and have suffered.—Daily Journal, 24th inst.

REALLY the Charleston Courier need not fret its gaze over the idea of a "North Carolina paper of the 20th inst." the Wilmington Journal being the paper referred to, giving any information to the enemy. Not a thing was stated in our issue of the date referred to that was not taken from the Coast Survey, if we except the statement that the Dismal Swamp Canal empties into Pasquotank River, and that is known as well North as here. We have read all about that Canal and also the Chesapeake and Albemarle Canal in Northern publications. We have no need to excuse our publication. There is nothing in it requiring excuse. We gave neither the number nor the location of any of our troops, neither the position nor strength of any of our batteries. When the enemy gets such information from the columns of the Journal it will be for the first time.

PERHAPS if General Price is to be superseded in Missouri, a better or more acceptable man could not have been sent in his stead than General Van Dorn, whose reputation for dash is not exceeded by that of any other officer of the army. He is a Southerner by birth, and enjoys the confidence of the people of that section. The way he bagged the U. S. regulars in Texas, will not soon be forgotten. But it is unfortunate that Price is to be superseded at all; doubly so that a supposed necessity for this should have been occasioned by batreds and jealousies between such men as Ben McCulloch and Sterling Price. Why couldn't men like them pull together at such a crisis as the present? Jeff. Thompson, the irrepressible Jeff, never seems to mind anything but the good of the cause, and aspires to no position save one from which he can strike a blow at the enemy.

WE WERE shown to-day a letter from one of the Hatteras prisoners still confined at Fort Warren. Of course it came open by flag of truce from Fortress Monroe, and contains nothing more than the assurance that the writer is in good health and spirits, and the balance of his company (from Washington, N. C.) all well, and in hopes of soon being free again, which, as a sort of informal exchange of prisoners has been set on foot, is quite likely. The writer seems to be well enough satisfied with the food given to the prisoners.

Daily Journal, 23d inst.

ALL RIGHT.—Mr. Mauley and the Raleigh Standard seems to be getting in better humor with each other. That is right. What's the use of exploding.

The Savannah News has information that the Yankees have taken possession of Cedar Keys, Florida, the Gulf Terminals of the Florida Railroad. The Depot of the Company is on one of the Keys some distance from the mainland, and known as "Depot Key." There is nine feet water and good harbor for small vessels.

ON Wednesday last in Columbia, S. C., Mr. Press B. Patterson had in his hand a loaded pistol which his wife begged him to put down, for fear of accidents.—He took off the cap, and threw it on the floor, then playfully presenting the pistol to his breast, he said, "it can't fire," and drew the trigger, but some of the percussion powder from the cap adhering to the nipple, it exploded and sent a ball through his heart. Mr. Patterson had been a volunteer in Hampton's Legion and lost a leg at Manassas.

THE NUMBER of vessels reported at Hatteras and in the Sound (125) nearly doubles the number set down in the New York Herald's list of the vessels composing the Burnside expedition. The presence of sixty additional vessels may be accounted for by the disappearance of Dupont's fleet from Port Royal, and his disappearance may be accounted for by their re-appearance at Hatteras. It is hardly probable, if these sixty additional vessels did come from Port Royal, that they brought any land forces, since General Sherman is calling for reinforcements, not preparing to detach "expeditions."

FROM THE DAILY JOURNAL, 24th inst.

Received yesterday, by telegraph, could not be regarded otherwise than as unfavorable, affirming as it did, the death of General Zollicoffer and the defeat of his command. Whether it is to be believed or not is a question difficult of solution. We fear that there may be some truth in it, but it is most probably much exaggerated, coming as it does through Federal channels, and above all through Forney's Press. The whole accounts are confused and have a suspicious look. We give them as they appeared in yesterday's Norfolk Day Book:—

From Forney's Philadelphia Press of the 21st.

THE WAR IN KENTUCKY.

A Second Great Victory.—The Enemy's Entrenchments Attacked and Forced.—The Rebels Driven to the River.—Large Number of Prisoners, and Heavy Losses to the Rebels.

CINCINNATI, Jan. 20.—A combined attack was made to-day on General Zollicoffer's entire command, by Gen. Schoepf and General Thomas, resulting in a complete victory. The "Stars and Stripes" now have over the rebel fortifications.

Our troops captured all the camp property and a large number of prisoners.

The loss of the rebels is heavy. Zollicoffer's dead body is in the possession of the Federal forces, which is one of the most significant victories of the war.

LOUISVILLE, Jan. 20.—The Battle Palisade was killed in the recent engagement, proved to be the Battle of Palisade, attached to Zollicoffer's staff, and not the Battle of Palisade, as first reported.

GENERAL THOMAS' CIRCULARS OF SATURDAY'S BATTLE.

CINCINNATI, Jan. 20.—The Battle of Palisade, which was fought on Saturday, resulted in a complete victory for the Federal forces.

General Zollicoffer, commanding the Federal forces, was killed in the battle, and his army entirely defeated.

The loss is heavy on both sides.

THE FEDERAL VICTORY CONFIRMED.

LOUISVILLE, Jan. 20.—General Thomas' report of the battle of Palisade, which was fought on Saturday, confirms the Federal victory.

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FROM THE SPEECH OF THE HON. MR. VALLANDIGHAM.

To the Kentucky Congress on Wednesday, the 15th.

The following propositions were offered:

Mr. Corning (opp.) of N. Y., from the Committee on Ways and Means, reported a joint resolution, that in order to pay the ordinary expenses of the Government, and the interest on its public debt, a tax be imposed on the sale of all goods imported into the United States, with the tariff on imports, will secure an annual sum of not less than one hundred and fifty millions of dollars.

Mr. Vallandigham, (opp.) of Ohio, said that before the question was put, he wished to express the hope that all the measures relating to this subject may be reported at the earliest possible date, and then passed at a fixed day ahead, so that full time may be allowed for their consideration; for, great as this civil war now is, and imminent, too, as is the danger of foreign complications, they are both of them as nothing compared with the daily accumulating and most disastrous financial embarrassments which are pressing upon us on every side not only from the present war, but from a civil war which may be.

The war must come to an end sooner or later, and in one way or another, and foreign complications can and will be adjusted, with or without a war, which, at most, could not last long. But the errors or crimes of the financial contrivances and embarrassments of to-day, and their results, will endure to the third and fourth generations, which ought to be the third and fourth generations of this work at once, let us not hurry over it. For twenty-six years the pestilential and execrable question of slavery in every form has been debated in this House for months in succession. A bill to amend the Wilmot proviso, the compromise of 1850, the Kansas-Nebraska bill, the troubles in Kansas, and the Lecompton Constitution, each in turn, have consumed the time of the Senate and House for weeks together; and even now, with a public debt of already some seven hundred millions of dollars, and increasing, too, at the rate of two millions of dollars per day—with an empty treasury and no means to replenish it—with nearly every source of revenue dried up, and even that last resort of the inevitable bankrupt, borrowing, cut off—with all these things staring us in the face—nevertheless, the object of the war is to be decided, and the country will be content if they only see that we have gone at the business in earnest, and will not grudge an hour spent in legitimate debate. Let the people understand, truly and honestly, the full extent and real character of the burdens we lay upon them, and know and feel that we have faithfully and diligently done the best possible in every way to protect their interests, and the dread spectre of repudiation will not be evoked. Let us waste no time in this business, but let us also advance understanding every step of our journey, and then there will be no steps to retrace. It is immeasurably the most momentous of any of the questions before us, and whoever fails to meet or to grapple with it boldly and to the full extent, is a disunionist, for bankruptcy is disunion, and disunion in the worst form, and will put an instant end to the war, not by honorable adjustment, but by the sword.

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